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Prevalence of " Narambu Silandi " (Guinea-worm) in the Tiruchirappalli district.

* 620 *Q*.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a peculiar disease known as " Narambu Silandhi " caused by Guinea-worm is widely prevalent in some parts of Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot districts;

(*b*) whether any representations have been received by the Government from persons from those parts, especially of Udayarpalayam, Perambalur and Vridhachalam taluks that the hospitals in their respective areas are not fully equipped with men and medicine to combat and prevent this disease; and

(*c*) if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A representation was made to the District Medical Officer, Tiruchirappalli, by one of the members of the Taluk Congress Committee of Perambalur in April 1954, about the prevalence of guinea-worm in Kurumbalur village which is 5 miles from Perambalur.

" (*c*) The District Medical Officer issued instructions to the Medical Officer attached to the Government Hospital, Perambalur, to equip himself with necessary medicines and admit patients who require treatment as in-patients. The District Health Officer, Tiruchirappalli, was also requested to take preventive measures."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" What are the preventive measures suggested by the District Medical Officer? Is there any doctor who has specialized in the treatment of this guinea-worm disease in our State and, if not, will the Government be pleased to depute a doctor to go abroad and specialize in the treatment of this disease? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no specific remedy for guinea-worm disease. We can only take preventive measures such as conversion of step-wells into draw-wells, chlorination of contaminated water-sources, introduction of cyclopscidal fish into step-wells and tanks as a biological control method and the use of boiled and strained water."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" In view of the fact that this disease is prevalent only in this country and not in the other countries, will the Government be pleased to institute research into the origin, prevention and cure of this disease? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said what preventive measures can be, and are being, taken."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN :—" தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவிலே நரம்புச் சிலந்தி அதிகமாக உள்ள காடாம்புலியூர் போன்ற இடங்களில் ' லெப்ரஸி கிளினிக்குகள் ' போன்ற வேண்டாத காரியங்களைச் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். ' லெப்ரஸி கிளினிக்குகளுக்குப் ' பதிலாக, நரம்புச் சிலந்தி வியாதிக்குச் சிகிச்சை கிடைக்கும்படிச் செய்வதற்கு நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கும்படி அரசாங்கத்தைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The District Board of South Arcot has taken several measures for the prevention of the disease. I do not know what other information the hon. Gentleman requires."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" What is the nature of this disease and what exactly is its effect on the person who suffers from it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Guinea-worms grow within the system after infection from contaminated water and come out through various parts of the body like the foot and the eye. The hon. Member can kindly go to a hospital and see the suffering patients for himself."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Hon. Minister was enumerating the various preventive measures that were being adopted. May I know whether those measures are adopted in those two districts and, if so, the strength of the special staff employed for this work? " 11-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no special staff employed for this purpose. In South Arcot a Reserve Sanitary Inspector is employed and the Range Health Inspector is also attending to this work."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" On a point of personal explanation. I am sorry the Hon. the Health Minister is treating this issue so very lightly when he says that worms are coming out and the flesh bursts out. The very thought of it is terrible."

Starting of ink industry in Madras by foreign firms.

* 621 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any licences have been issued by the State Government to the Japanese ' Pilot ' ink firm and the American ' Quink ' ink firm to start an ink industry in Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" ஏற்கெனவே உள்நாட்டில் ஏராளமான இங்க் தயாரிக்கப்படுகின்றன. அதைப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கு இனிமேல் குவிங்க், ஜப்பான், பைலட் கம்பெனி முதலியவைகள் இங்கு தயாரிக்க ஏதாவது லைசென்ஸ் வேண்டுமென்று மனுப்போட்டால் அதைக் கொடுக்காமல் இருக்க சர்க்கார் உத்தரவாதம் கொடுக்க முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The ink industry does not come within the scope of the Industries Development and Regulation Act of 1951 and, therefore, no licence is required for the establishment of an undertaking for the manufacture of ink. Therefore, there is no question of the State Government issuing any licence for any factories. But in July 1953 the Government of India approved a scheme submitted by the Pilot Pen Company for the manufacture of Pilot fountain pen and ink in collaboration with the Pilot Company, Tokyo, and permission was granted to Tailor